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Killing begets more ...

8/8/97
Killing begets more killing. The basic bond that binds terrorists on both sides in what was once the Holy Land, a title seldom heard these days.

also Mr. Arafat
In the latest outrage against all humanity, on July 30, suicide bombers murdered 13 and left 170 men, women and children wounded. The massacre happened in the crowded Jerusalem produce market, which, as the bombers knew, draws vendors and customers principally from among the city's Jewish population.

who's else would he do?
The killers left behind no written statement, explaining why they chose to end their lives in the process of slaughtering innocents. Universal opinion holds the bombers' real target was the next day's peace talks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu obliged by cancelling the scheduled negotiations although blood and flesh still mingled with the market's fruit and vegetables.

what
Then, he reinforced the terrorist's victory by launching a series of attacks meant to hold hostage the entire non-Jewish population:

Sealing the borders once again insured thousands on the West Bank and in Gaza would go to bed hungry, by depriving workers of their labor wages earned in Israel.

it did not take the money to buy
Refusing to pay \$9 million legally owed daily to the Palestinian Authority reduced its capability of helping impoverished citizens in the latest crisis, triggering more anger and frustration not at Yasser Arafat's interim regime but with the Israeli government.

Returning at this juncture to the policy of demolishing homes, even those built without the proper papers, brought suffering to more innocents and invited the kind of negative international press Mr. Netanyahu earned this week.

Oslo
Attributing the worst possible motivation to these acts of random public cruelty was made easy when an Israeli Defense executive informed The New York Times:

"We are signalling the Palestinian Authority that they will not be able to resume normal life until they take certain measures to combat terrorism." No officials' houses were torn down.

NY Post
The same misguided thinking was responsible for issuing, amid considerable publicity, an arrest warrant for Mr. Arafat's chief of police, not on the basis of having helped the bombers, but supposedly for failure to perform up to Mr. Netanyahu's expectations.

dismissed as another example of Graustarkian-low political comedy, except for the reality that it will inevitably cost more human lives. The immediate result of the inept brutality has been greater sympathy among Palestinians for the murderers and their cause, as represented by the extremist Hamas organization, which took credit for Jerusalem's latest tragedy.

2001/7/1
Of course, this is not the view shared by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party and its American supporters. They sincerely subscribe to the notion that with enough pressure the Holy Land's still-majority non-Jews can be made both contrite and submissive. They have learned little from the recent past; the Arabs have.

The lessons of the intifadah, the rock-throwing uprising, have not been forgotten; never again will youth be encouraged, on a national basis, to risk their lives and limbs before Israeli gas and guns. We can expect solely targeted demonstrations, such as those seen recently in Hebron, site of the 1994 massacre of three-times the number of Palestinians as last week's Jerusalem victims.

Of course, three years ago, Yitzhak Rabin was still alive; he used his war hero's stature to press the process that promised peace before his assassination by a Jewish zealot.

As Egyptian President Hosny Mubarak, also a veteran of those hopeless wars between his country and Israel, reminded Mr. Netanyahu, former Gen. Rabin's answer to bloody provocations was to intensify negotiations, looking for a way to end the deadly cycle that has marred dreams for normality by both Arabs and Jews.

The Israeli government's repressions, while popular among Mr. Netanyahu's minority and the country's extreme right-wing fringe, has chiefly served to divide further the small nation, while justifying fully the warped mentality, on each side, that seeks to destroy any hope of peace between Jews and Arabs.

Hamas celebrated the first-week anniversary of the market carnage by announcing it plans further attacks; in the process, U.S. negotiator Dennis Ross received a chilling warning his presence was unwelcome in its neighborhood, the Middle East, by the organization that claims credit for so many deaths already.

My greatest frustration in present crisis was captured by Mr. Mubarak who informed the world Mr. Netanyahu is demanding action Mr. Arafat is not "powerful enough" to deliver. As the Israeli prime minister surely knows, his latest reprisals further weaken the Palestinian leader and strengthen the bloc forces behind last week's killing. That will certainly beget more ... that will beget more ...

No one anticipates the warrant ever will be served; its symbolic existence therefore reeks of grandstanding for a constituency, in a manner that has soured Americans on most elected officials.

The current situation might be